Senior Graduation Project Letter to Parents

To: Parent/Guardian
From: English Teacher
Re: Graduation Project Requirements

The following are guidelines that students must follow in order to receive full credit for his/her graduation project. The graduation project is part of the Pennsylvania state requirement for graduation.

- ❑ All students will complete an individual research project as part of the state mandated English curriculum. This will be completed by the end of the semester in which English 11 is taken.

- ❑ This research project will also count as a classroom assignment and will be averaged into the semester grade; **failure to turn in the project may result in failing English for the semester/year.**

- ❑ Successful completion of the project will be marked on report cards.

- ❑ This project must be typed. No hand written projects will be accepted.

  If you do not have a computer at home, you must let the teacher know well in advance so that arrangements can be made for the student to type the project in school in order to meet the deadline date. **No research projects will be accepted late.**

- ❑ Students may choose their project topics with the approval of the teacher

- ❑ Students wishing to complete a project in another content area must have the approval of the high school principal. The principal will coordinate the completion and record keeping of the project by the end of the semester.

- ❑ The teacher shall determine the proficiency of the project using a rubric.

- ❑ The student must demonstrate, through the project, the ability to apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information

- ❑ Upon completion of the project, the student will present to an appropriate audience approved by the teacher. The presentation should be interactive and representative of the student's knowledge of his/her topic. **Please note that the oral presentation of the project is a state requirement.**

Please sign below stating that you have read and understand the requirements for the graduation project.

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____

Project Topics

College/Career

This report will provide information on 1 or 2 colleges or 1 or 2 career choices that you are interested in after high school and analyze the significant factors that play a role in your decision about which college/career atmosphere will best suit your post secondary needs.

Hobbies/Interests

This report will provide research on a specific hobby or interest i.e. computers, hip-hop, skateboarding, karate, etc

Time Period of American Literature

This report will provide information on a specific time period from the literature book used in class. The Time period can range from Puritan to Harlem Renaissance to Modern works of literature.

**** You must use 3-5 sources to research your topic i.e. Internet, books, magazines, videos, person interviews, etc. You must analyze this research to write a report on the several aspects of your topic. The final paper will for formatted in strict MLA style that includes a cover page, table of contents, outline, works cited page, and 3-5 parenthetical citations blended in the body of the paper. The report must be 7 pages in length, double-spaced and typed in 12 point font Times New Roman.****

Oral Presentation

You must give an oral presentation of your findings that is a minimum of 15-20 minutes in length. You must use at least 2-3 visual aides i.e. videos, overheads, posters, graphs, objects, etc. You must also come prepared with an adequate amount of note cards to ensure fluency, organization, and clarity while presenting.

****If you do not present and/or your project is not in strict MLA format, you will not pass the graduation requirements.****

Graduation Project Grading Rubric

Excellent (525-470) A

- ❑ Project shows thorough research with the use of numerous resources.
- ❑ Project is excellently organized and well planned.
- ❑ Project reflects mastery of language and is mechanically correct.
- ❑ Project demonstrates data and information in an insightful and analytical manner.
- ❑ Project shows evidence of originality and creative thinking.
- ❑ Presentation of the project demonstrates a strong knowledge of topics and is in logical sequence.

Very Good (469-418) B

- ❑ Project meets stated requirements.
- ❑ Project shows thorough research using several resources.
- ❑ Project is organized and planned in a logical sequence.
- ❑ Project research is accurate, supported by details, and reflects analytical thinking.
- ❑ Project language is mechanically correct and competent.
- ❑ Presentation demonstrates a thorough knowledge of topic and is well organized.

Acceptable/Satisfactory (417-370) C

- ❑ Project has minimally met all requirements.
- ❑ Project research is accurate but lacks detail and explanation.
- ❑ Project demonstrates basic organization.
- ❑ Project structure and mechanics are generally correct, with some errors.
- ❑ Presentation demonstrates minimal knowledge of topic with some organization.

Unacceptable/Yet Satisfactory (369-339) D

- ❑ Project has not met all requirements
- ❑ Project research is limited and lacks detail.
- ❑ Project is poorly organized and difficult to understand.
- ❑ Project structure and mechanics have many errors.
- ❑ Presentation lacks organization and solid knowledge of topic.

Unacceptable/Unsatisfactory (338-0) F

- ❑ Project requirements have not been met.
- ❑ Project research is inadequate.
- ❑ Completed project has not been turned in by deadline date.
- ❑ Presentation is inadequate or has not been presented.

Senior Graduation Project Grading Rubric

The Written Part	Maximum Points	Points Earned
Cover Page: • Title/topic • MLA Heading • graphic	**15 points**	
Table of Contents: • page numbers • format	**30 points**	
Outline: • thesis statement • intro., body points, conclusion • format	**30 points**	
<u>The Paper</u> **Content:** • intro., body, con • thesis • quality of text/material • use of sources • blended quotes **Focus:** • topic development • thesis development **Organization:** • intro., body, con • topic sentences • transitions • blended quotes **Style:** • voice • personality • self **Conventions:** • spelling • grammar • punctuation	**200 points**	
Works Cited • format of citations • alphabetical order • indentations	**75 points**	

MLA • heading • spacing • page numbers • title • parenthetical citations (quotes)	**75 points**	

**** Total: 425 points****

The Presentation	**Maximum Points**	**Points Earned**
Content Knowledge: • strong knowledge of topic/material • preparedness • fluency	**20 points**	
Speaking Skills: • eye contact • posture • volume • page • pronunciation	**20 points**	
Organization: • flowing • logical • clear • complete	**20 points**	
Language: • Appropriate to audience • Correct vocabulary • Easy to follow	**20 points**	
Visual/Audio Aids: • Quality • Content • Effectiveness	**20 points**	

****Total: 100 points****

~A total of 525 points can be earned for this project~

Tentative Schedule for Senior Project

Research Days: _____

Final Product: _____

Presentations: _____

**Due Dates/Check Points:

_____ Topic/Research

_____ Thesis Statement

_____ Outline

_____ Rough Draft (intro./ 1st half of body)

_____ Rough Draft (2nd half of body/conclusion)

_____ Parenthetical Citations (3-5)

_____ Works Cited

_____ Peer Edit

_____ Note Cards for Speech

_____ Visual Aids (at least 2)

☺ You Made It!!!